

***Frank's Lawyers
Hear***

***Confession
Witnesses***

***Now Repudiate
Stories***

Attorneys Give Out
State-

ment in Which They
De-

clare That They
Believed

Ragsdale and Barber
Were

Telling the Truth.

***SHOW HOW
AFFIDAVITS***

***WERE SECURED
BY THEM***

“If These Rumors Be
True,

We Denounce the Perfidy of These Men With All the Vehemence of Our Na- tures,” They Say in Card.

The report current in Atlanta yesterday that Rev. C. B. Ragsdale, the minister who accuses Jim Conley of having confessed to Mary Phagan’s murder, and that R. L Barber, the member of Ragsdale’s flock, who corroborated the pastor’s story, had repudiated their stories, and had branded them as “frame-ups” last night, resulted in a sensational statement to The Constitution from Frank’s counsel.

His attorneys also presented affidavits from Dr. J. M. Pierce and John E. White, who had vouched to Frank’s defense for the character of Ragsdale, and similar affidavits from George E. Knott, who had testified to the character of Barber.

Rumors were persistent on Monday that there would be startling developments in the Ragsdale and Barber affidavits, but Solicitor Dorsey absolutely refused to discuss the matter, declaring that all developments would be made public on Friday. When the card of Frank's lawyers was furnished to The Constitution, it was so late at night that it was impossible to reach either Rev. Mr. Ragsdale or Mr. Barber for a statement.

Frank's counsel's statement follows:

Frank's Lawyers' Statement.

Editor Constitution: On Thursday, April 23, 1914, there appeared at the office of L. Z. Rosser, in the Grant building, two men who professed to have important information in reference to the Frank trial. One of these represented himself to be a preacher and the other a former member of his flock.

These two men were unknown to each of us. Neither of us had ever seen or heard of them before.

L. Z. Rosser acted in taking the affidavits of these men. He put them to the test of the most thorough cross-examination of which he was capable. There was no effort to lead them, to add to or color their story. On the contrary, they were given clearly to understand that Frank's counsel wanted only the truth, and in taking their affidavits we were seeking nothing beyond just what they knew and knew accurately.

The affidavits were prepared in their presence, almost their very words being taken by a competent and honest stenographer. After the affidavits had been typewritten they were carefully read to each of the witnesses and sworn to before a disinterested notary public.

Did Not Dream of Wrong.

Neither one of us dreamed that they were acting corruptly, but believed that they were acting from pure motives to correct the wrong of their former silence.

They were asked to give the names of their friends and associates, as the law requires. They gave promptly some of the most correct and upright men in the city of Atlanta.

Some of these men were promptly seen in an effort to determine whether these men were what they seemed and represented themselves to be.

The result was in keeping with their claims. Some of the best men in Atlanta vouched for them and we felt justified in presenting their story to the court.

It has come to our ears this evening that both these men now recant and claim they framed up their story.

Will Denounce Perfidy.

If these rumors be true, we denounce the perfidy of these men with all the vehemence of our natures.

In this Frank case we have never wanted anything but the truth, have never made use of anything but what was believed to be the truth.

We have believed and now profoundly believe in Frank's innocence, but even that conviction has never induced us to say one word that the whole city of Atlanta could not hear, nor to do anything that the whole state of Georgia could not see.

If these rumors are true, we will at once cut these perjured witnesses out of this case, just as we have in the past, and just as we will in the future every fact and circumstance that even squints at unfairness or perjury.

In proof that we did not act even credulously and inadvisedly in this matter we send you herewith copies of affidavits of men who vouch for the character of these men.

L. Z. ROSSER,
HEREBERT HAAS,

LEONARD
HAAS,

REUBEN R.
ARNOLD.
